



## **OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS**

# **TRANSBOUNDARY WATER ISSUES IN SOUTH CAUCASUS**

**Tbilisi Marriott Hotel  
November 6-7 2002**

# TRANSBOUNDARY WATER ISSUES IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

## JOINT SEMINAR OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

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November 7, 2002  
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Note:

- 1) This Joint Seminar was organized by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) regional offices in the South Caucasus with the assistance of the Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI) project offices in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.
- 2) The funding was provided by OSCE and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) missions in the South Caucasus with additional support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York.



## Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

### The Secretariat

**Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and  
Environmental Activities**

**Vienna, 28 November 2002**

#### **Report: Joint OSCE – USAID Meeting on Transboundary water issues in the South Caucasus, Tbilisi 6-8 November**

There are more than ten transboundary water projects, including the NATO – OSCE River monitoring one, either on the ground or in the works in the South Caucasus. One recommendation which came from the Tenth OSCE Economic Forum, that focused on the sustainable use and the protection of the quality of water, is that OSCE facilitate the co-ordination between different projects, donors and implementers.

With the support of the Universities Partnership (Oregon State University and University of New Mexico) and Carnegie Foundation, along with the Pacific Institute, USAID/ Development Alternatives Inc. (DAI) and OSCE crafted a co-ordinating and training meeting on transboundary water issues which took place in Tbilisi from November 6-8.

The meeting:

- offered a vehicle for each project to update each of the others on their progress;
- facilitated dialogue on how the goals of the projects might complement each other and work in tandem;
- offered a day of training on hydropolitics, legal frameworks, and economic aspects of water;
- brought together representatives from tense basins in the world, to share their experiences in moving from small-scale to large-scale co-operation, and from technical to political dialogue.

Delegations from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia included representatives of relevant ministries, parliamentary committees, water committees, Academies of Science, Hydromets and Universities. International Organizations and donors presenting projects included USAID, World Bank, UNDP, EU Tacis, GTZ and Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation.

The meeting offered the opportunity to further the process of dialogue among water experts and the scientific community of the three countries. Apart from discussing existing projects, participants were engaged in discussions and simulations on water issues that are at this stage on hold with the aim of leaving open the window of opportunity for potential project activities once the political obstacles are overcome.

The chairpersons of the environmental committees of the Parliaments of Armenia and Azerbaijan attended the meeting and reaffirmed their intention to promote within their own national assemblies the implementation of the commitments undertaken in Johannesburg

within the framework of the Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) initiative, which include collection and exchange of information on water quality, organise joint monitoring of transboundary rivers.

Concluding the meeting, a proposal for the establishment of a South Caucasus Water Management Co-ordination Group was put forward by the OSCE. The Water Management Co-ordination Group would be an advisory body consisting of representatives from the Governments of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, the international donor community, international organizations and implementing partners working on regional water related projects in the South Caucasus.

The role and functions of the Water Management Co-ordination Group are to:

- a. ensure timely and smooth flow of information on completed, ongoing and planned programmes and projects between the members of the Group;
- b. facilitate the co-ordination of donor initiatives in the sector with an objective to ensure complementarity and synergy of effort and avoid duplication;
- c. formulate recommendations to the respective donors agencies and/or government representatives for priority action in areas in need within the water sector;

The proposal was welcomed with enthusiasm by national delegations and received positively by IOs and donors.

During the discussions on the creation of a regional co-ordination group, the issue of lack of co-ordination and exchange of information among different agencies and ministries also at national level on water issues and programmes was underlined.

Follow up steps:

1. The proposal on the establishment of a regional co-ordination group is now under consideration of partner organizations and interested parties. Once agreed on the terms of reference and modalities of the Group, a first meeting will be called, possibly before the summer 2003 and maybe within the framework of the follow up to the Tenth OSCE Economic Forum.
2. In the debriefing meetings with the national delegations that attended the meeting, OSCE was asked to organize national inter-ministerial/inter-agency meetings, with the participation of donors, to facilitate the exchange of information and provide the opportunity for better delineation of interests and priorities both at national and regional level. OSCE presences in the region are discussing with USAID/DAI to organize such meetings in the three countries before the first meeting of the regional group so as to arrive at that meeting with a more accurate picture of national needs and interests. The national co-ordination meetings (including representatives of the ministries and agencies for ecology, water resources, Parliament, Water commissions/committees, agriculture, academy of sciences and Hydromets) will tentatively take place between January and February 2003.

# TRANSBOUNDARY WATER ISSUES IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

## JOINT SEMINAR AGENDA Wednesday - November 6, 2002

TOPIC	PRESENTER	TIME
Moderator	Paul Dreyer/DAI	
1. INTRODUCTION		10:00 am
OSCE Welcome	Hon. Lacombe/OSCEAmbassador	
Georgian Welcome	Nikolos Beradze/SDM	
Seminar Purpose and Outline	Gianluca Rampolla/OSCE	
Identification of Participants	Participants	
2. WATER PROJECTS IN THE REGION		10:30 am
World Bank Projects	Darejan Kapanadze/IBRD	
EU Tacis NEAP 2 Programme	Andrew Huckbody/EU Tacis	
USAID Integrated River Basin Plans	Eka Otashvili/DAI	
Discussion of Issues	Participants	
COFFEE BREAK	Hotel Marriott	11:30 am
3. WATER PROJECTS IN THE REGION		11:45 pm
NATO/OSCE Monitoring Program	Michael Campana/UNM	
Management of Trans-boundary Aquifers	Shamandir Puri, IAH	
EU Tacis Joint River Management	Rieks Bosch/EU Tacis	
Reservoir System of the Kura River	Paul Dreyer/DAI	
Discussion of Issues	Participants	
LUNCH	Hotel Marriott	1:00 pm
4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES		2:30 pm
Application of Trans-boundary Concepts	Aaron Wolf/OSU	
Armenian Issues		
Azerbaijan Issues		
Georgian Issues		
Discussion of Issues	Participants	
COFFEE BREAK	Hotel Marriott	4:00 pm
5. COORDINATION ISSUES		4:15 pm
Coordination of Water Projects	Gianluca Rampolla/OSCE	
Discussion of Issues	Participants	
CLOSURE		5:30 pm

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Note:

- 1) This session was held at the Tblisi MarriottHotel in Tblisi, Georgia with the participation of about 60 persons from Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia and is organized by OSCE and USAID with the assistance of DAI.

# TRANSBOUNDARY WATER ISSUES IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

## JOINT SEMINAR AGENDA

Thursday - November 7, 2002

TOPIC	PRESENTER	TIME
Moderator	Aaron Wolf/OSU	
1. INTRODUCTION TO HYDROPOLITICS		9:30 am
Conflict Prevention and Resolution	Aaron Wolf/OSU	
Capacity Building and Institutional Issues	Aaron Wolf/OSU	
Discussion of Issues	Participants	
COFFEE BREAK	Hotel Marriott	11:15 am
2. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL VALUE OF WATER		11:30 am
Economic and Social Concepts	Peter Gleick/PI	
Instruments for Pricing Rate Design	Peter Gleick/PI	
Discussion of Issues	Participants	
LUNCH	Hotel Marriott	1:00 pm
3. INTERNATIONAL WATER LAW		2:30 pm
International Water Law	Jitzchak Alster/SAC	
Discussion of Issues	Participants	
COFFEE BREAK	Hotel Marriott	3:45 pm
4. PANEL ON TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS		4:00 pm
Co-Chairs	Peter Gleick/PI	
Co-chair	Aaron Wolf/OSU	
Gurani Aquifer	Ofelia Tujchneider/LNU	
Jordan Basin	Jitzchak Alster/SAC	
US-Mexico Shared Waters	Michael Campana/UNM	
Discussion of Issues	Participants	
5. CLOSING SESSION		5:30 pm
Summary of the Seminar	Peter Gleick/PI	
Rapporteur	Lisa Gaines/OSU	
Discussion of Issues	Participants	
CLOSURE		6:00 pm
DINNER	Dzveli Sakhli	7:00 pm

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### Notes:

- 1) This session was held at Tblisi Marriott Hotel in Tblisi, Georgia with the participation of about 60 persons from Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia and is developed by Peter Gleick of the Pacific Institute (PI) and Aaron Wolf of Oregon State University (OSU) with the support of the Carnegie Corporation.
- 2) The dinner at Dzveli Sakhi (Old House) located at 3 Sanapiro Street in Tblisi was provided with the kind support of the Carnegie Corporation.

# TRANSBOUNDARY WATER ISSUES IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

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D306Armenia



# TRANSBOUNDARY WATER ISSUES IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

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D306Azerbaijan

# TRANSBOUNDARY WATER ISSUES IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

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D306Georgia

# **TRANSBOUNDARY WATER ISSUES IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS**

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